

# TWO LIVES PAY FOR GOSSIP CAUSED BY LOVE ROMANCE.



The Shooting of Martha Williamson.

How Farmer Woodhull killed the woman he accused of gossiping about his sweetheart, and then ran to his own home and committed suicide.

Down in Laurel, a little Long Island village near Riverhead, a woman gossiped, and to-day she is dead by the hand of one who believed himself a victim of her gossipy tongue. He, too, is dead—a suicide.

In another, a few miles away a young woman mourns and will not be comforted, for she is doubly a victim. The gossip smirched her reputation, and the man who so tragically resented it was to have been her husband.

This village of Laurel is about seven miles from Riverhead. It is a picturesque place, in which everybody knows everybody else and everybody else's business. In the main street of the town are two pretentious residences, and craps hangs to-day on the door of each.

In one of these homes lies the body of Martha Williamson, spinster, aged forty-five. Just across the street in the other home lies the body of William Woodhull, farmer, aged twenty-seven. The other character in this tragedy of country life lives in Sayville.

## Families Were Friendly.

The memory of the oldest inhabitant goes back no further than the friendship of the Williamson and Woodhull families. They have always lived within a few rods of each other. The children have played together and grown up together, but the ties got no closer.

When the boys and girls married they went away from Laurel to choose their mates. So far as is known there has never existed a love affair between members of the families.

When William Woodhull was a baby Martha Williamson sang him to sleep. She carried him in her arms, and as he grew older she accompanied him to school and protected him from the fists of older and stronger boys. She was like a sister to him, and as he grew to manhood, she took an interest in his movements and actions that was almost proprietary.

## William Went a-Wooling.

In the course of time William went a-wooling, but it appeared that he could not pick a girl satisfactory to his spinster friend. For many years she had figured on this contingency. She has cast her eye over the growing girls in the village and had chosen one whom she thought would make a fit helpmeet for William.

And it so happened that this one girl, of all the girls in the village, was the girl who found no favor in young William's eyes. When it came to the spinster's ears that William was going over to Sayville and courting the daughter of some honest folk she formed an aversion to the girl immediately. It was not long, somehow or another, before many people in Laurel were repeating

stories not complimentary to the character of the Sayville lass. William was the last to hear these rumors. He raged and stormed like a wild man. He insisted that they had no foundation and threatened to have the life of any one circulating them.

Diligently he searched for the author of them, and finally he fixed with morbid earnestness upon one person—Martha Williamson.

He is said to have taxed her with creating the gossip. What she said to him will never be known, for none heard their conversation. That it was violent is known, however, for William Woodhull told some friends that it had been.

Still the Gossip Continued. The gossiping continued and William waxed warmer in his threats. The knowing villagers smiled at his rage. What, William Woodhull, the easy-going farmer, commit murder? No, sense, they said. He wouldn't raise a hand to harm any one.

All of which goes to show that the villagers were mistaken in their estimate of William's determination. He told the girls in Sayville that he would kill her traitor and he heaved himself obligated to keep his pledge, although she had begged him to put thoughts of murder out of his mind.

A few days ago he bought a revolver, a big-bore weapon, warranted to kill.

He showed it to some of his village friends and made ominous remarks about what he was going to do with it. Even at this manifestation no steps were taken to prevent the tragedy that was inevitable.

Miss Williamson went driving last night with her brother. They visited friends in the vicinity of the village, and returning, she reached her house about 11 o'clock and got out of the wagon at the front gate. The brother drove the horse around to the barn in the rear of the house.

William Was in Ambush. Hiding in the shrubbery in the yard of his home was William Woodhull, with his revolver in his hand. He saw Miss Williamson walking toward the door of the house. Springing from his place of concealment he ran after her. She heard him and turned. He fired once, the bullet pierced her brain and she fell. When her brother, attracted by the sound of the shot, reached her side she was dead.

Woodhull did not wait to see the effect of his shot. He ran across to his home and up the stairs to his room. Placing the muzzle of the revolver—still warm from the shot he had just fired—against his temple he pulled the trigger. And when the members of his family found him he, too, was dead.

The name of the young Sayville woman to whom Woodhull was engaged is Della Newton. She is the daughter of a builder and a most attractive girl. Miss Newton said today that she had promised to marry Woodhull three years ago. Previous to that time she had been quite friendly with Miss Williamson. Her brother, Averil Newton, paid a visit to Miss Williamson only a week ago.

## Farmer Woodhull Blamed Martha Williamson for Gossip About His Sweetheart and Killed Her, Then Shot Himself— A Laurel, L. I., Tragedy.

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## BOY SAVED FROM WHIPPING POST.

Governor of Delaware  
Respites Fifteen-  
Year-Old Lad.

(Special to The Evening World.)  
WILMINGTON, Del., May 24.—Moved by the pitiful story of Percy Smith, fifteen years old, who was yesterday sentenced to ten lashes at the public whipping post and six months imprisonment, Gov. John Harrington today respited him from the lashes for thirty days in order that application may be made to the Board of Pardon.

It was known that some of the Judges of the Court were opposed to the respiting of the boy, but those who were interested in the matter took the surest plan of getting the time required.

Gov. Harrington was here this morning attending a meeting of the Delaware State Federation of Women's Clubs, and those interested in the boy asked him to see the youth. The Governor did so, and the consequence was that Smith will not be whipped to-morrow.

## COFF FORFEITS BAIL OF TWO.

Recorder Angry at Non-  
appearance of Alleged  
Gamblers.

Recorder Goff was emphatic to-day in his criticism of the failure to place any of the defendants on trial who were arrested in the recent gambling raids. His criticism was evoked by the call of the case of Frank H. Johnson, arrested at No. 118 West Thirty-fifth street, on Feb. 27, and William Chiles, alias George Mismam, arrested at the raid on No. 128 West Thirty-sixth street.

Johnson was represented by James W. Ridgway, of Brooklyn, and Mismam by Emanuel M. Friend, A. clerk from the office told Recorder Goff that Mr. Friend was engaged elsewhere and would be present later in the afternoon. Neither Johnson nor Mismam replied to his name. When Friend's clerk asked for a postponement Recorder Goff with some petulance said:

"No, this matter will be settled now. It is a strange coincidence that none of these cases have been brought to trial. The District Attorney puts them on the calendar and counsel is notified, and yet when the case is called the defendant does not appear. I will forfeit both these bonds."

# MRS. VON WAGNER LAUGHS DENNIS MURPHY TO SCORN.

Only Woman Sanitary Inspector in the World Says She Does Not Fear that the Mt. Vernon Politician Will Succeed in Having Her Put Out of Office.

Dennis Murphy, contractor and politician of Yonkers, proposes to put out of office Mrs. Johanna Von Wagner, State Sanitary Inspector, because she is German. Mrs. Von Wagner says Mr. Murphy is an Irishman of no consequence.

"This man," said Mrs. Von Wagner to an Evening World reporter today, "is always making trouble. I have been inspector here four years, and he remembers I am German. Well, when you are a professional person and hired and paid for your services by the civil service, you may be a Boer or an Esquimaux."

Mrs. Von Wagner came to Yonkers from Boston four years ago, where she had been graduated from a nurses' training school. Then she took a private course in sanitation of houses, and applied for the inspectorship of sanitation in Yonkers. She passed a civil service examination, and was made the only woman inspector in the United States.

"He wishes to annoy me, that is all," she said, "but he does not know the laws of the civil service in his adopted country, of whose rights he is so careful. In the first place, my father is a naturalized citizen. He lives in Boston. Therefore, why should his daughter be required to take out citizenship papers? And in the second place, as I said, the civil service demands only that its applicants pass its examinations."

"It does not trouble itself with the nationality of its people, so why should this man? It is simply to annoy me, which is not easy."

Dr. Hermann, President of the Board of Health, has given unqualified ap-



MRS. J. VON WAGNER

proval to Mrs. Von Wagner's work. Mr. Murphy's claim that she has ties and estates in Germany which she would lose if she became a United States citizen, Mrs. Von Wagner says is absurd. "I haven't a foot of ground in Germany," she said today, "and the title of sanitary inspector is the only one to which I have any claim, and I don't believe this man will succeed in taking that away from me."

"Now then," says Dennis Murphy, "she isn't a citizen and she can't come under professional, scientific or technical. Anybody can be sanitary inspector. I could myself."

# STRAW HATS ON BROADWAY PROCLAIM REAL SUMMER.



Straw Hats Seen on Broadway To-Day.

All the Styles Known to Fashion Made Their Debut To-Day.

THE RECORD.  
N. A. M. .... 69  
10 A. M. .... 76  
11 A. M. .... 78  
12 noon .... 78  
1 P. M. .... 79  
2 P. M. .... 80  
3 P. M. .... 81

When walking down Broadway, Unless your headgear's out, You'll hear some fellow say, "Where did you get that hat?"

So if you'd be so fair, And up to date—that's that! You must go out to-day, And buy a new straw hat!

It is really essential. If you do not believe the time is ripe to shed the rain-soaked old derby or alpaca, take a walk up Broadway, and be content. Why summer has jumped right in our midst, and half the people of Manhattan have not awakened to the fact.

It is hot, sweltering, stifling, and all the more so because we have become so accustomed to the miserable London climate of the past six weeks that we haven't even thought of checking our flannels—let alone of straw hats!

But it was a revelation on Broadway today. There were "straws" out of all descriptions. "Chappies" started it. They always do. Everybody saw them

Chappies and Business Men Hasten to Discard Their Old Hats.



One Lone Specimen.

and awoke to the situation with a shock. Their families started down to business. The first symptom of something wrong was when they began to perspire.

## WEATHER FORECAST.

Forecast for the thirty-six hours ending at 8 P. M. Saturday for New York City and vicinity: Rain to-night, probably with thunderstorms, and cooler Saturday showers, followed by fair, fresh, easterly winds, shifting Saturday morning to northerly.

and mopped their brows in surprise. Then they looked at their neighbors and saw that they, too, were beginning to get red in the face and wilty about the collar.

When they saw the Chappies, that settled it. It surely was getting hot and the next step was into a hat store, from which Papa invariably emerged with a self-satisfied smile, a lighter pocket and a brand new "straw" on his dear old pate.

The weather man says it is going to be hotter than yesterday. It was 90 in the shade then, only nobody awoke to the fact. Today, says Mr. Emery, it will pass that mark somewhere about 3 P. M.

The happiest man in town is the straw-hat dealer.

## GENEROSITY BETRAYED BY.

Little Fellow Found Teacher's Purse and Gave Away Money.

Miss Mary Hughes, a teacher in Primary School No. 11, in Ridge street, lost her pocketbook, containing \$60 and checks for \$100, on Monday in the school building. She notified the police and did a little detective work herself.

Miss Hughes found that several boys were well supplied with candy, and that Samuel Brown, twelve years old, of No. 111 Ridge street, had made cash presents to some of the pupils.

One of the lads she questioned was Brown's eleven-year-old brother, Benjamin, who told her that Samuel had found the pocketbook.

Magistrate Hogan, in the Essex Market Court, to-day held Sammie for examination.

## ONE SUSPECT ARRESTED.

Police Think They Have Clue to Priest's Murderers.

PHILADELPHIA, May 24.—Detective Frank P. Geyer, Special Officer Bieche and a woman whose identity was not made public left for Baltimore today for the purpose of identifying Harry L. Leech, of this city, who is wanted for alleged complicity in the murder of Father Charles J. McGinnis. A dispatch from Baltimore said Leech had been arrested there.

## Another Special

Last week's under-price suit sale, was so successful that we are encouraged to hold another.

## Blue Serge Suits.

Cut from fine all-wool cloth and warranted to neither fade nor shrink.

Not a thin, paper-shell serge, but just the right weight for present wear.

Regular Price \$10.

Here is a bargain that sewed clothing buyers can't afford to overlook. Every suit stylishly tailored, with high-cut vest and broad military shoulders—extra strong sewing. All sizes in stock. Blue serge in place of blue, if preferred. A chance to get for \$6.50 an elegant spring suit that is worth \$10. Money cheerfully refunded if not absolutely pleased with your purchase.

# VINCENT,

SIXTH AVENUE, COR. 12TH STREET. OPEN TILL 7. [ESTABLISHED 1865.] SATURDAYS 10 P. M.

While the wedding bells of May and June Are ringing out their joyful tune, Do not forget the bride to bring For a

## LAMBERT SEAMLESS WEDDING RING.

They are made in our own factory by the best workmen to be found in America. They bear our own mark, which is a life guarantee. No solder and only the purest gold.

Wedding Ring Prices:

14 k.	\$3 to \$15
18 k.	\$4 to \$18
22 k.	\$6 to \$20

Each ring is a guaranteed solid gold, seamless ring, good for the longest lifetime. As we make them in our own factory, the above prices are Manufacturers' Prices.

## LAMBERT BROTHERS' Gold and Silver MEDALS ARE FAMOUS.

A Fine Single Stone Diamond Ring, \$25.

We bought our diamonds before the present high market and have on hand a very large assortment of loose and mounted stones. That is why we offer them for Less than Present Import Prices.

Sterling Silver, \$1.00  
Solid Gold, \$4.00

Medals in Stock and Made to Order.

Send for Catalogue of Medals, Glass Rings and Pins.

We are Manufacturing Jewelers. The advantages of dealing with us are in the saving of all middlemen's profits and expenses. You can buy of us for less money than from the retailer, who in turn buys from the jobber.

OLD GOLD BOUGHT, EXCHANGED OR REMODELLED.

## Lambert Brothers JEWELERS

Open Evenings Till 7 o'Clock. SATURDAYS TILL 10 P. M.

## Vogel Brothers

42nd Str. Cor. 8th Ave.

### Sale of Men's Stylish Summer Clothing

Men's Blue Serge Suits at \$10.

We place on special sale 500 blue serge suits, made of a blue serge that is thoroughly reliable and chemically tested by our own cloth experts as to color. Tailored in such a manner that it will hold its shape. Thousands of these suits, of the self-time fabric, have been sold by us during the past 20 years, and we have yet to hear of one complaint. The usual price for these suits at most stores is \$14; our special price, \$10.

Men's Light Weight Worsted and Striped Serge Suits at \$15.

At this price our showing of suits embraces all of the most fashionable summer fabrics. Men's Blue Serges with distinctive hairlines, and overplaids of white, red, green, olive, etc. Cut in the smart, military style sack coat, lined only on each side, to make them cool and comfortable in the hottest of weather. Novelty Cheviots, loosely woven, to let the air in, but very strong, in green, brown and all the new overplaid Worsted, typical summer suits, very cool and dressy, in neat stripes and checks, cut in regular broad-shouldered sack style. Suits that custom tailors charge \$25 for; our special price, \$15.

## Vogel Brothers

42nd Str. Cor. 8th Ave.

Open Saturday Evening Till 10:30.

## 1901 WORLD ALMANAC

PRICE 25 CENTS—ALL NEWSDEALERS.